

Message Text

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20

ACTION IO-10

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7053

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1477

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7747

TOKYO FOR ASST. SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, KS, KN, UN

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MESSAGE TO U.N.

1. WITH OPPOSITION NDP MEMBERS PRESENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOV 19 PASSED STRONG RESOLUTION (SEPTTEL) CONDEMNING NORTH KOREAN TUNNELLING UNDER DMZ AND TERMING DPRK SCHEME AN "ACT OF INVASION." NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS SENT RESOLUTION TO MOFA FOR TRANSLATION AND TRANSMITTAL TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNITED NATIONS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, RESOLUTION CALLS ON U.N. TO TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION.

2. MOFA AMERICAN BUREAU CHIEF YI SANG OCK WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH TRANSLATION AND HANDLING OF RESOLUTION TELLS US MOFA HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY RECEIVED DOCUMENT BUT EXPECTS TO NOV 20. ASKED BY ACTING POL SECTION CHIEF IF ROKG PLANNED TO CONSULT WITH USG REGARDING RESOLUTION PRIOR FORWARDING IT TO U.N., YI SAID FINAL DECISION NOT YET MADE AS TO HOW TO HANDLE RESOLUTION. HE INDICATED IT NOT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR RESOLUTION WOULD
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BE FORWARDED TO U.N. OR EXACTLY WHAT ROKS PLANNED TO DO

IN NEW YORK WITH IT. ROKS WOULD CONSULT WITH US, YI SAID, IF IT WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

3. ROKS, FINDING THEY HAVE CAUGHT NORTH KOREANS IN CLEARCUT, BLATANT VIOLATION OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, ARE PULLING OUT ALL STOPS TO EXPLOIT TUNNEL DISCOVERY FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PURPOSES; BUT, IN THE PROCESS, THEY ARE OVERPLAYING THEIR HAND. UNC ANALYSIS CONCLUDES ONLY 500 TO 700 TROOPS PER HOUR COULD BE MOVED THROUGH UNCOVERED TUNNEL. WHILE IN UNC VIEW THIS REPRESENTS "SERIOUS MILITARY THREAT" TO ROK, IT IS NOTHING LIKE THREAT THAT WOULD BE POSED BY ENAGGERATED FIVE TO SIX THOUSAND MEN PER HOUR ROKS CLAIM COULD BE PUT THROUGH TUNNEL, (SEE PARA 7, SEOUL 7722).

4. AS INDICATED ROKS HAVE NOT NECESSARILY DECIDED ON WHAT MOVES THEY INTEND TO TAKE IN U.N. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, IT APPEARS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION, IF TRANSMITTED, LIKELY BE VIEWED AS OVERKILL AND NOT TO PERSUASIVE TO FENCESITTERS IN KOREAN DEBATE.

5. AMBASSADOR WILL SPEAK TO FOREIGN MINISTER REGARDING ROK U.N. PLANS, REEMPHASIZING CONCERN ABOUT OVERKILL ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED TO FONMIN AND OTHERS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND USUN VIEWS REGARDING POSSIBLE ROK ACTIONS OUTLINED.
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